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Message Text

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42
ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-05 SY-05 /026 W
---------- 102225
R 111444Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6292

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2212

FOR A/OS

DEPT PLS ALSO PASS TO DCM VELIOTES, NEA/IAI

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASCH, IS
SUBJ: AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

REF: TEL AVIV 6388 11/6/74; TEL AVIV 7515 12/30/74

1. EMBASSY HAS JUST LEARNED VIA LETTER FROM GORDON PARSONS, A/OS, TO SUPERINTENDENT OF WALWORTH BARBOUR AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL THAT DEPARTMENT GRANT OF $15,000 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SECURITY FENCE AROUND SCHOOL AS REQUIRED BY GOI POLICE WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM DEPARTMENT'S GRANT TO SCHOOL FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES FOR FY 1975 COVERING SCHOOL YEAR 1975/76.

2. IN TEL AVIV 6388, EMBASSY BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF DEPARTMENT SERIOUS FINANCIAL DEFICIT CONFRONTING SCHOOL FOR 1974/75 SCHOOL YEAR AS RESULT DROP IN ENROLLMENT AND UNUSUALLY HIGH RATE OF INFLATION (56 PERCENT). EMBASSY REQUESTED SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT IN ADDITION TO $32,000 RECEIVED FROM FY 1974 FUNDS TO HELP REDUCE DEFICIT. DEPARTMENT REPLIED THAT OUR REQUEST WOULD BE REVIEWED BY DR PARSONS DURING HIS PLANNED VISIT TO ISRAEL DECEMBER 15-17.

3. DURING DR PARSON'S VISIT, SCHOOL BOARD MADE PLEA FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF SCHOOL'S REQUESTS
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BOTH FOR 1974/75 AND 1975/76 SCHOOL YEARS.

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DR PARSONS PROMISED THAT HE WOULD REVIEW SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST,
WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WOULD BE ONE-TIME, SPECIAL
SUPPLEMENT.

4. DURING DR PARSON'S VISIT, SCHOOL BOARD, IN
RESPONSE TO URGING FROM GOI POLICE AND STRONG
RECOMMENDATION OF EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER, APPROED
CONSTRUCTION OF FENCE AROUND SCHOOL. EMBASSY DEC 30
SENT TEL AVIV 7515 TO DEPARTMENT ASKING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
OF $23,000 TO COVER COST OF FENCE, PERIMETER LIGHTING
AND GUARD SRVICE. DEPARTMENT APPROVED GRANT OF
$15,000 FOR FENCE, FOR WHICH EMBASSY AND SCHOOLMOST
GRATEFUL. WE ASSUMED THAT WITH SPECIAL GRANT FOR FENCE,
WE COULD OT EXPECT SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT FOR EDUCATIONAL
PURPOSES AS REQUESTED IN TEL AVIV 6388. DEVALUATION
AND GRANT OF $40,000 FROM UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL DID
GREATLY ALLEVIATE DEFICIT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 1974/75.

5. ON DECEMBER 16 EMBASSY FORWARDED REQUEST FOR FY 1975
GRANT FROM DEPARTMENT FOR $56,000 COVERING SCHOOL
YEAR 1975/76. THIS REQUEST WAS $14,000 HIGHER THAN
SCHOOL HAD RECEIVED FROM FY 1974 FUNDS DUE TO OUR
EXPECTED FURTHER DROP IN ENROLLMENT AND ANOTHER YEAR OF
HIGH INFLATION, POSSIBLY 30-35 PERCENT. THE INCREASED
GRANT LEVEL WOULD FACILITATE ADJUSTMENTS THAT
SCHOOL MAY HAVE TO MAKE OVER NEXT YEAR OR SO IN PARING
DOWN STAFF AND OTHER EXPENSES IF THERE IS NO REVERSAL
OF DOWNWARD TREND IN ENROLLMENT.

6. INFORMATION THAT GRANT FOR FENCE IS TO BE DEDUCTED
FROM A $40,000 GRANT APPROVED CITED IN PARSON'S LETTER FOR 1975/
76 SCHOOL YEAR FROM FY 1975 FUNDS CAME AS BAD SURPRISE.
REQUIREMENT TO BUILD FENCE IMPOSED AN EXCEPTIONAL EXPENSE
UPON SCHOOL, AND GRANT FROM DEPARTMENT SHOULD CERTAINLY
BE VIEWED AS SPECIAL GRANT, ARISING OUT OF SECURITY
SITUATION IN ISRAEL, AND NOT AS PART OF GRANT INTENDED
FOR EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES. NEW SUPERINTENDENT IS
MAKING OUTSTANDING EFFORT TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF SCHOOL
IN FACE OF LIKELY FURTHER DROP IN ENROLLMENT AND INCREASED
OPERATING COSTS. HE AND SCHOOL CERTAINLY MERIT GRANT
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OF SIZE REQUESTED SO THAT HIGH EDUCATION STANDARDS
CAN BE MAINTAINED WHILE SCHOOL MAKES TRANSITIONAL
ADJUSTMENTS IN ORDER OPERATE WITHIN INCOME FROM TUITION
AND MORE MODERATE LEVEL OF GRANT ASSISTANCE.

7. FOR VELIOTES: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR
PERSONAL FOLLOW-UP OF THIS MESSAGE WITH A/OS. FYI EMBASSY
REQUESTED $56,000 FOR SCHOOL YEAR 75/76, EXCLUDING COST OF FENCE.

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8. FOR GORDON PARSONS, A/OS: WE SHALL WELCOME SOONEST CONFIRMATION OF AMOUNT OF FY 1975 GRANT FOR AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN ISRAEL.
DOZIER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition History: n/a
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